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ABSTRACT

Representing the accumulated expertise of the Spanish Speaking/Surnamed (SS/S) multi-disciplined service provider network, this position paper is designed to focus national, state, and local attention to the Latino/Chicano child abuse and neglect (ca/n) problems and on the bilingual/bicultural resources needed to improve the degree and type of response to ca/n within the Latino community. A brief overview of the state of the art of the ca/n field and the SS/S population discusses child abuse systems and their problems, dynamics of child abuse in the Latino community, family dynamics/family stress, role of the court and protective services, alternative models/bilingual-bicultural resources, demographic profile of the Latino population regarding child abuse risk, and multiple high risk factors faced by SS/S people (e.g., health, emotional, intellectual, and cultural hazards). Among 25 specific recommendations on how ca/n systems can become more responsive to SS/S people are: that a network of bilingual/bicultural referral services be established, advocated for, and sponsored by the state and county ca/n service network and that alternative responses be considered, e.g., bilingual/bicultural manpower resources, family oriented crisis intervention services, and parents as resources. Resolutions presented by the National Chicano/Latino Caucus and the California Latino Federation of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils at the conference are appended. (NQA)

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NATIONAL POSITION PAPER
ON
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN
THE LATINO COMMUNITY

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Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
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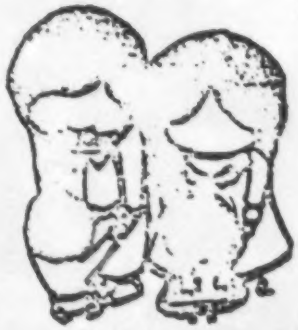

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NATIONAL LATINO C/A POSITION PAPER

I. INTRODUCTION

The National Latino/Chicano Position Statement on Child Abuse and Neglect represents the accumulated expertise of the Spanish Speaking/Surnamed (SS/S) multi-disciplined service provider network. The network developed out of the struggle to assist Mejicano-Chicano-Latino familias survive the rigors of the child abuse and neglect (ca/n) intervention systems and to develop strategies to prevent its (ca/n) occurrence. The position statement presentation at the Fourth National Child Abuse and Neglect Conference is designed to focus national, state and local attention to the Latino-Chicano child abuse and neglect problems and on bilingual, bicultural resources needed to improve the degree and type of response to child abuse and neglect.

The paper will strive to adequately reflect the distinct bicultural conceptual base employed by numerous Latino-Mejicano-Chicano professionals and para-professionals in the ca/n field who are reviewing, analyzing and evaluating current prevalent ca/n theories. The experiences of our families for whom culturally appropriate ca/n alternative response systems are being created are also reflected in this paper.

Latino-Chicano professionals involved in the field of ca/n have developed a theoretical approach which include the following:

1. It is family centered;
2. multi-dimensional in nature;
3. cognitive of hazardous ecological factors within which child abuse is defined;
4. encourages SS/S workers utilization of bicultural family (parent/child) strengthening;
5. relies on knowledge of cultural and societal forces affecting the Latino family and;
6. is not reflected in existing ca/n literature, research and child abuse treatment and prevention modules. The theoretical approach is novel within the ca/n field.

II. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF LATINO POPULATION IN RELATION TO CHILD ABUSE RISK

The stress and pressures of American society have probably had a greater impact on Latino-Chicano families than on any other segment of the population. There are historical, cultural, demographic, social, political, and economic factors supporting the premise that Hispanic families in this society are experiencing pressures which are an integral part of their high risk status. Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans represent the two largest groups within this country's Hispanic population. Unlike European immigrants who came here from the mid-19th through the early part of the 20th century, these two groups shared the experience of conquest and annexation.

We know the Hispanics are severely under represented in the mental health, social and legal systems in policy making and as service providers.

We can infer from the size of the Hispanic population and the multiple hazards faced by its members that its problems in the area of ca/n and family disruption can only worsen.

Dr. Teresa Ramirez-Boulette speaks of the multiple high risk factors faced by SS/S people, some of which are:

Health Hazards - youthful pregnancy, malnutrition, neo-natal death risks, lack of adequate preventive health care, poverty related low birth rate, crowded dilapidated unsanitary housing, etc.

Emotional Hazards - disruption in maternal care (poverty and health related), marital disharmony, inappropriate foster placements, neglect by psychiatric and psychological professions, etc.

Intellectual Hazards - low birth weight related mental deficiencies, poverty related serious academic impairment, educational institutions' failure to (among others) assess specific nature of cognitive deficits of each child and distinguish between academic and mental retardation.

Cultural Hazards - Research attributing degrading, peculiar or romantic characteristics, mass stereotyping, lack of Hispanics in positions of influence, depreciation of Hispanic culture, failure to recognize heterogeneity of Hispanics (regional, generational, place of origin in Mexico, Latin America, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, urban and rural, degree of traditionalness-acculturation-assimilation, in group and between group differences), over representation in those incarcerated, substance abuse, unemployment and low educational attainment.

A recent Washington Post article ran a series of articles on the Latino/Mexican population. It said:

"By the mid-1980's, the number of Hispanic Americans - including immigrants from Caribbean islands and South America as well as Mexico--is expected to exceed the 30 million projected for American blacks."

"Today, in the Southwestern states of Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, Mexican-Americans already vastly outnumber blacks, Asians and all other minorities, reaching as high as 36 per cent."

"Of the nation's estimated 11.3 million Hispanic population, more than half are Mexican-Americans concentrated largely in five states: California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. Their language, culture and sheer numbers give the region the flavor of one new nation that could be called MexAmerica."

"Los Angeles, with a larger population of Mexican heritage than any

other city except Mexico City, is considered the capital of MexAmerica. It is home to 1.5 million citizens of Mexican ancestry and perhaps 500,000 more illegal immigrants."

By all ca/n literature and research measures the above demographic data, though admittedly limited for purposes of this paper, indicate strongly the high risk potential of the Latino-Chicano-Mejicano population. Or rather the data reflects the hazardous life conditions within which Chicano-Mejicano-Latino family life survives.

Yet there is virtually no funded committment on the part of federal and state governments indicating concern for the quality or quanity of life for Latino-Chicano families.

Despite numerous research projects, funded to provide the Federal government with valid information on child abuse, no studies have been promoted to identify ca/n incidence; types of bicultural prevention/treatment resources; nor assessment of relevant bicultural strategies impacting on child abuse and neglect in the Latino community. This represents a particulary glaring deficiency in the state of California where SS/S networks are working voluntarily to improve the systems.

A few Region IX area graduate students have undertaken research to look at the many potential Latino child abuse issues. One of those students, Josephine Jarvis, proposed specific recommendations regarding the Juvenile Court System ability to become more responsive to Spanish Speaking people going through the court system.

III. STATE OF THE ART OF THE CA/N FIELD AND THE SPANISH SPEAKING/SURNAME POPULATION

A. CHILD ABUSE SYSTEMS AND PROBLEMS

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The present inadequate system of services currently designed to meet the problems of child abuse and neglect contributes to trauma, stress, and harm to the Spanish-speaking/surnamed victim children

and their parents. The degree of harm appears to be more consistent than the amount of support and assistance the families receive. Without exception SS/S service providers have documented case histories to corraborate this.

Yet, given the reforms needed to insure a healthier outcome for families, there are certain principles, which if adopted, can lessen the degree of trauma to children and parents.

With respect to Latino famillies, the tremendous lack of Bilingual/Bicultural personnel within the ca/n systems is the most apparent and immediate need. Inability to communicate adequately with suspected/reported ca/n parents can result in erroneous conclusions and recommendations to the court. Worker attitudes and stereotypes about SS/S parents greatly affect the manner in which the ca/n reported cases are handled and the long range outcome.

Once families are reported, the ability to communicate effectively with the individual's preferred mode of communication is basic to any helping relationship. This relationship is even more critical when attempting to formulate any ongoing helping process with families involved in child abuse and neglect.

Yet, a recent study which investigated Spanish-speaking capabilities in the Child Abuse Service Networks of nine California counties revealed only six persons directly professionally involved as Spanish-speaking child abuse specialists. (Zapata, 1975). In Los Angeles County, for example where more than six million Spanish Surnamed persons reside, there are areas of high population density where Childrens Protective Services units have one Spanish Speaking worker.

The networks which have the greatest responsibility include the Police, Department of Social Services, Protective Services, Juvenile Justice System (e.g., courts) and the medical profession. It is our belief that appropriate recruitment, training, screening, education and selection procedures are critically needed for hiring sensitive bilingual/bicultural personnel in these human service system dealing with the potential issues of removal and placement of children.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That public ca/n service response systems be surveyed by the state and counties to assess the degree of need-response.
2. That policies be instituted to insure bilingual/bicultural personnel be integrated at ALL levels of the service network of child abuse and neglect.
3. That a network of bilingual/bicultural referral services be established, advocated for, and sponsored by the state and county Child Abuse and Neglect Service Network.
4. That there be a re-dedication to Affirmative Action Policies throughout the Child Abuse and Neglect Delivery System, including an impact evaluation of how Latino families are being adversely affected through the absence of bilingual/bicultural personnel
5. That public and private legal firms be encouraged to review possible legal issues with regard to the placement and treatment of Latino children through the juvenile dependancy court proceedings.

B. DYNAMICS OF CHILD ABUSE IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Little is actually known about the impact of child abuse in the Latino Community. The availability of valid, and reliable research in the area of Spanish-speaking surnamed families and the problems of child abuse and neglect is shockingly not represented in existing c/a literature and federally sponsored c/a research. As a result, the Latino Community and the Latino Familia has been placed in a victim-blame, "no win" situation by systems set up to help families.

Policies are developed and implemented based upon historical myth, stereotypic conclusions and influenced by traditional research which has been both culturally insensitive and culturally irrelevant.

The clinical experience of many c/a SS/S service providers tends to call into question the reliability of existing dominant c/a theories and research, and its applicability for the SS/S-ca/n population. This represents an important area for further exploration.

In more recent sociological studies on Spanish-speaking communities, for example, some common indicators of stress and "high risk potential" appear to be factors of isolation either from the community or extended family. Factors which may contribute to this isolation may be language fluency in Spanish or English; level of acculturation; the failure of workers to recognized supportive cultural values and family systems available to the individual, and to have knowledge of the surrounding community supports. Yet the relationship to ca/n of these or any other factors is yet to be developed.

Even less understood is the communities attitude towards the Child Abuse and Neglect phenomena. The system is perceived ultimately as a system of social regulation and control rather than a helping resource. Latino cultural dynamics are not understood, the Spanish language is invalidated, and more often than not, the Latino Community is further relegated (subjected) to the role of second class citizenship. These conditions are enhanced through the neglect of the federal government to foster bicultural prevention, treatment, research education, material development and to insist on inclusion of SS/S at all levels of the ca/n field.

Community cultural values and family dynamics are not taken into consideration, for example, when Spanish-speaking children are placed in completely English-speaking foster homes. Often the location of these homes do not foster and promote family visitation because transportation remains a problem in our barrios. There are major issues to be explored with regard to placement of bicultural children in English speaking homes, such as parent-child culture shock and language alienation and conflict, factors fostering lengthier placements and many others. Family reunification policies must be implemented that are focused to the needs of our community and that promote an atmosphere for healthy family functioning.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To develop an awareness of, and to formally identify and publicize practices which cripple the family spirit and restrict the opportunity for optimal, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of our gente, thereby increasing the potential for child abuse intervention.
2. To establish mechanisms to identify, advocate against, and control the abuses perpetuated by the multitude of service institutions which are hazardous to our families and children.
3. To identify areas for research, systematically advocate for funding to implement research among the Latino/Chicano population; to assess through culturally sensitive research, the impact of Child Abuse and Neglect on the Latino Community building on existing knowledge base of SS/S professionals and para-professionals.
4. To promote awareness in the Latino Community to parents role as participants in the healthy development of their children through bicultural-bilingual models of Prevention and Education.
5. To foster the expertise of SS/S professionals currently developing family centered prevention and healthy intervention models.

C. FAMILY DYNAMICS/FAMILY STRESS

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The impact of Child Abuse and Neglect in the Latino Community is perhaps most evident within the individual family unit reported, identified and charged with ca/n. The fact that the Latino family is more likely to experience societal stress at a higher incidence than many other ethnically distinct groups is supported by existing research. C/A research also supports this fact, yet c/a systems fail to formulate policies or programs based on this research. Rather, it is felt by SS/S service providers that this failure contributes to the capricious handling of cases.

The implications inherent in Child Abuse and assessments of the Latino family are that cultural values related to child-rearing, parenting and intrafamilial relationships must be pathological. Ability to perceive family functioning from a bicultural perspective can promote development of a systematic approach to treatment. High risk familial units including the "undocumented" family and the family "in crisis" must be targeted for special consideration.

What is most sacred in the family is the tradition and culture it represents. To provide activities, treatment approaches, and problem resolutions which highlight and respect our cultura is a method which promotes positive interaction among families. It is important to recognize that the issues which parents of different cultural backgrounds face are somewhat similar; what is more difficult to recognize is the varying cultural response to the issues and the distinct methods families use for coping.

The responses of Latino families often include a pervasive lack of understanding regarding child abuse laws, the legal, judicial, and bureaucratic procedures in the reporting of Child Abuse.

Latino parents often are not prepared to have family authority questioned or even to reveal family matters to others who represent outside authority. Sexual abuse in particular is an issue which is NOT often discussed much less admitted.

The role of the Latino/Chicano parent is indeed changing. The role of the female in the household is no longer like that of our mothers. The fact of the single parent household and economic need for the increasing two breadwinner household are just a few examples of these developing changes.

Focus on family patholology can promote culturally inappropriate labeling, assessments and treatment. Many SS/S service providers involved in the ca/n network propose the development of a bicultural perspective in the assessment and treatment and prevention of child abuse. This orientation includes assessment of family strengths including the meaning of love, respect, work, education and authority. The goal is to build on family strengths as a first principle.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To develop a forum to promote the professional sharing of bicultural perspectives and bicultural treatment and prevention models.
2. To encourage the development and implementation of culturally appropriate Parenting Programs Prevention models and material which educate about the problems of Child Abuse and Neglect.
3. Community based programs be established to provide the necessary support for families at risk. Family-oriented Crisis Centers which provide referral, court orientation, advocacy, and drop-in services, are one example of these programs. Bilingual information and crisis lines are another.

4. The need for qualitative and quantative research program development, and implementation of alternative treatment methods with those who are at risk is imperative. The isolated, "crisis-oriented" and "undocumented" family units are especially important groups requiring attention. Culturally sensitive documentation regarding the problems of Child and Sexual/Abuse/ Neglect and the impact of the response and public intervention system on the Latino family requires further exploration

D. THE ROLE OF THE COURT AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The overall system designed to assist families who are suspected of Child Abuse or, who suspect others of abusing their children results in further abuse for families and enhances trauma to the child. The Child Abuse and Neglect System consists of the reporting units (e.g., Doctors, School Officials, Protective Services), those who must interact between the reporting units and the courts (Police Dept., Social Services Dept. - DPSS), and finally, the courts (Public Defender, Juvenile Court System). At all three levels of the system little effort or sensitivity is given to the needs of Latino families, i.e., non-Spanish Speaking personnel to respond to and evaluate reports; stereotypic assessments; bureaucratic procedures and attitudes.

Children's and Parent's Rights for example must be made to fit the value requirements of the Spanish-speaking. In almost every apsect of the tri-level service network the Spanish-language is not only discouraged it is often used as a criteria for suspicion. The process for reporting child abuse, the court procedures, the decision making process for placing children in foster homes and for resolution of the problem are almost always completely conducted in a foreign language - English. Even court translators, where they exist, will only translate from the court to the individual and rarely aid in presenting the families circumstances to prosecuting and defending attorneys, to social workers, probation, etc.

In regards to the courtroom procedures, it is our belief that courts must be realistic in the type of services they provide to Spanish-speaking families. In this light, Protective Services must take a more active position to insure within the area of Child Abuse, Latino individual rights. It is not enough to protect the children from family or community abuse, rather Protective Services must adopt a posture of protecting the child from the abuse of the helping system. Interrogation procedures either during the initial police contact or through the Public Defenders Office, for example must first be acutely considerate of the child's Basic Rights. Parents must be helped to fully understand the constructs of judicial process and legal recourse available to them. If Protective Services does not assume this alternative position then the Latino Community must develop strategies to protect its own. (Ex: Spanish-speaking Community Advocate/Translator).

Again, factual documentation of questionable protective services, court procedures and others can be provided to support the contention that the juvenile court and protective service system promote Latino family dis-unification.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The lack of procedures for Bilingualism must be considered the immediate and primary problem leading to increasing family stress. The entire Child Abuse and Neglect Service Network must assume responsibility for integrating the Spanish language and culture at all levels of its operation if its true goal is the reunification of families.
2. Court dependency and review procedures, Protective Services role and the Legal System must be re-evaluated in terms of the promotion of further abuse and their insensitivity to the needs of the Latino family. Due Process and the Right to Equal and Fair Representation are key questions which must be addressed.
3. Advocacy, either from within the represented service networks or through legal or legislated community response must be viewed as a priority in aiding any Latino family within the helping systems of Child Abuse and Neglect.

4. Research regarding the disposition, length of placement follow-up, referral resources and other factors should be initiated at the Federal, State and County level.

D. ALTERNATIVE MODELS/BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL RESOURCES

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The restrictions and limitations placed upon those professionals/para-professionals working with Latino families and the problem of Child Abuse and Neglect are the result of many opposing influences. The need to define, develop and implement resources and treatment models from within a Latino professional/para-professional/community framework was the initial intent for preparing this Position Paper. The goal is to decrease the possibility of Child Abuse in the Latino Community through the development of supportive, educational and culturally designed family oriented treatment programs from throughout its members life-cycle.

The strategies in developing alternative models and bicultural resources range from altering current methods and practices to the development of new and unique service models. The process suggested for developing strategies is first, to identify those practices which restrict the opportunity for optimal growth. The need for bilingual/bicultural personnel, sensitivity to Spanish language needs, and cultural sensitivity in understanding the circumstances of Child Abuse are practices which have been identified in this paper. Research however is still very necessary in assessing the effects of these practices on the Latino population.

Second, once these practices are identified, a decision to develop strategies to resolve any cultural or theoretical inconsistency, should focus on approaches both within the Child Abuse Service Network and from the community. Community based resource systems have been suggested as one alternative approach. From within the Service Network, the need for a comprehensive system of accountability, re-evaluation of present procedures and regulations, and the development of a bilingual/bicultural work force have

been suggested as possible strategies which focus on the Latino Communities needs.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES:

1. Develop Bilingual/Bicultural Manpower resources. There is a clear need for more Bilingual/Bicultural professionals and para-professionals sensitive and dedicated to the lives of our people and children.

   There is also a need to assure that Bilingual/Bicultural personnel are recruited, trained and educated to work with Latino families and groups who become entangled in the web of Child Abuse and Neglect. We must demand more Spanish-speaking employees at all levels of prevention, identification and treatment.

   This includes more Latino/Chicano doctors, nurses, social workers, police, teachers, as well as, clinicians.

2. Accountability: There must be developed a accountability within federal, state and local service systems designed to assess the effectiveness of the response from these Networks towards the Latino Community.

3. Need for Research: There is a dire need for research studies relative to the Latino-Chicano-Mejicano Community and Child Abuse and Neglect practices.

   There currently exists few validly identifiable criteria, or culturally relevant indicators to assess the problems of "abuse" or "neglect". It would appear that the responsibility for establishing and funding culturally appropriate research should especially fall upon federal and state governmental Child Abuse and Neglect Service Systems (e.g., Title XX Funds, PL93-247, NIMH).

4. Family Crisis Intervention: There is a consensus that the utility of Family Oriented Crisis Intervention Services are one element of service delivery which must be explored further. Bilingual/Bicultural professionals and para-professional staff could well be integrated through the Juvenile Justice/Community Mental Health Systems. The specialized services of Crisis Intervention, Referral, Advocacy, and Child Abuse Liaision are especially important in working with "High Risk" Latino groups; such as, the isolated family or the undocumented family. The Alternative Services perspective require sensitivity and awareness of cultural community dynamics and resources. Our experience is that these innovative bicultural approaches (primary prevention, treatment, educational which again, can be documented) usually are terminated once the personnel responsible for their development leave.

5. Preventive Intervention: Preventive intervention is perhaps the least validated but most important element in developing alternative methods of response. Various professionals and para-professionals have begun to formulate and develop innovative, culturally sensitive programs. Oftentimes these programs fail to be fully supported by agencies and operate on a shoestring. Educational packages in Spanish, using Audio/Visual modes of communication, which teach our parents and community about Child Abuse and Neglect are some examples of other approaches.

Excellent individual work in this area was initiated by Teresa Ramirez-Boulette, R.N., Ph.D. and Maria I. Martinez, of Santa Barbara, California. They taped a series called "Cinco Minutos" designed for high risk mothers. Dr. Boulette developed a model called "Fiestas Educativas" designed to provide culturally relevant area specific education to parents in a type of health fair milieu. "Meriendas Educativas" has also provided

a forum for mothers to come together in a supportive environment. "Semillas de Futuro" a film script Latino child abuse play needs only to be funded to be a valuable educational bilingual film. Barbara Smart Sanchez, San Jose, California, was instrumental in this effort.

6. Community Development: The intention of community development in Child Abuse and Neglect System is to assure that each community explore its own concerns of Child Abuse and Latino families and its own resources. Community based resource networks which encourage para-professional or volunteer activity among community members would be one goal. The development of community links could provide additional resources; such as, Spanish-speaking foster homes, parent education supportive group building. As well as a Forum for families to Advocate for the needs of abused children and their families (e.g., Familias Unidas Latinas model).

7. Parents as Resources: The family, the parents must be a primary target for any effort in effectively working with Child Abuse and Neglect in the Latino Community. Parents find themselves raising their families in accordance with values they received from their family. Yet, Latino parents are told in many ways that those values are inappropriate and are discouraged in using the strengths of the familial structure. Familias Unidas Latinas as one parent project, recognizes the individual family value base within a bicultural approach to child abuse. The model focuses on issues which impact the family on a broad scale both psychologically and culturally. The potential strength of this type of model lies in its reinforcement of the family unit as a primary mode of prevention, its multiple perspective towards family life, and in its recognition of culture as a invaluable strength.

SUMMARY

The issues and remedies proposed in this paper are seen as critical and as a beginning step. Certainly other networks, other approaches and other remedies can enhance our Latino/Chicano communities efforts to improve the quality of life for all.

As the various problem statements propose, there appears to be a marked difference among the c/a experts and Latino/Chicano professionals in current theoretical basis for viewing ca/n and in the conceptual framework within which helping approaches are developed.

There are many areas open to dialogue and action strategies.

GZ/11
October, 1979

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NATIONAL CHICANO/LATINO CAUCUS

AND

CALIFORNIA LATINO FEDERATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT COUNCILS

RESOLUTIONS

Presented at the Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

October 10, 1979

Los Angeles, California

WHEREAS over 12 million of the nation's population are Spanish speaking surnamed; and

WHEREAS the Spanish speaking surnamed constitute the largest minority group in the Southwest; and

WHEREAS over 50% of this population are minors under the age of nineteen (19); and

WHEREAS, by all demographic measures, i.e., employment, education, housing, income, unavailability of social/health/legal resources, this population is identified as high risk for child abuse; and

WHEREAS there are no available statistics to support or refute our contention that the effects of PL93-247 are hazardous to the health and welfare of our Latino children and parents; and

WHEREAS there has been a historical negligence and lack of accountability in addressing the needs of the Chicano/Latino/Spanish-speaking community in the area of child abuse and neglect and family welfare; and

WHEREAS bilingual/bicultural multi-disciplined professionals/paraprofessionals and laypersons are deeply concerned with the legal rights, personal growth, human development and welfare of our children and our families: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the California Latino Federation of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and The National Chicano/Latino Caucus of the Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect hereby adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, although this Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is held in a high density Latino populated area and has reflected an increase in Chicano/Latino Caucus participation in planning and organization of a National Position Paper; the overall conference involvement, nevertheless, is insufficient to reflect the needs of this largest growing minority group: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a Chicano/Latino Task Force with a working budget be established early to assist in planning and development of the Fifth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect; and be it

RESOLVED further, That dialogue begin, to discuss the convening of a National Latino Family Welfare Conference similar to those held for other racial and ethnic groups, in preparation for the White House Conference.

WHEREAS the Children's Bureau currently allocates training monies for graduate training in Child and Family Welfare through the States and Universities; and

WHEREAS there is no state or federal accountability with regard to the state or federal plan for the use of these funds for the recruitment and training of sorely needed bilingual-bicultural children and family services workers; and

WHEREAS service agencies in highly populated Latino communities decry their inability to locate trained personnel in child and family welfare fields: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Children's Bureau initiate a mechanism (involving extensive Chicano/Latino participation) to survey and to hold accountable the states Departments of Social Services and the Universities, in the utilization and distribution of allocated monies under Title IVB Section 452 for academic preparation of bilingual/bicultural professionals to work in the Latino Community in the area of child and family welfare.

WHEREAS the Spanish-speaking surnamed community, though not represented in policy or planning, is often used by governmental and state agencies as a means to justify funding allocations; and

WHEREAS, at the time of program implementation, the services delivered are either inappropriate or culturally irrelevant; and

WHEREAS staff development, coordination, planning and implementation of child abuse/neglect programs do not impact on the Spanish-speaking community; and existing child abuse systems are non-bilingual, non-bicultural and/or insensitive to these needs; and

WHEREAS the lack of bilingual/bicultural staff impedes the effective delivery of services and may be, in fact, unduly harmful to the Chicano/Latino family welfare and violate due process legal sanctions: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Affirmative Action be implemented in the hiring and promotion of bilingual/bicultural staff in policy, planning, program development and implementation levels of government; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a child/family welfare and protective services certification program for bilingual/bicultural paraprofessionals and professionals in the area of child abuse and neglect be implemented.

WHEREAS culturally sensitive, bilingual, child abuse/neglect, public education materials are non-existent for the Spanish-speaking/bicultural community; and

WHEREAS there exists a critical lack of child abuse/neglect resources in the areas of research, training and program development with which to demonstrate effective models to prevent and treat the problem, thereby adversely affecting the Chicano/Latino population; and

WHEREAS monies are currently being allocated by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect for demonstration program development, various categories of national and regional resource centers, and other programs; and since the passage of PL93-247, of total monies spent (approximately 80 million) less than one percent have been designated specifically for the Chicano/Latino community: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C., develop a budget for the appropriation of adequate funds to specifically address the research, training, program development, and educational needs of the Chicano/Latino Community in the area of child abuse and neglect.

WHEREAS there is a lack of Chicano/Latino representation in policy making levels within: a) the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, b) Administration for Children, Youth and Families, c) Children's Bureau, d) Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C.; and

WHEREAS the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, and HEW are largely ignorant of the needs of this largest growing minority group; and

WHEREAS there is a lack of accountability through effective policies and planning for the more than 12 million Latinos served by the Children's Bureau and the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That extensive recruitment and appointment of Chicanos/Latinos in policy making positions on all levels of government be implemented and that full Chicano/Latino participation be part of the process of Affirmative Action implementation, reviewing of budget appropriations and program development; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a NATIONAL CHICANO/LATINO TASK FORCE be established on the Children's Bureau with the intent and purpose of developing a master plan (to include the collection and analysis of appropriate data, and the development of recommendations for implementation) on the issues which affect the Chicano/Latino family; that bilingual/bicultural support staff be appointed on this Task Force with authority to acquire all relevant information from all components of the Children's Bureau and related departments.

The California Latino Federation of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and the National Chicano/Latino Caucus of the Fourth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect hereby approve these resolutions with the intent of involving Chicano/Latino/Mexican American/Hispanic communities throughout the Southwest and the United States in the development of unified support for the implementation of these resolutions through legislation, possible legal action and appropriate action by governmental agencies.

Furthermore, we insist that this long overdue implementation take place in consultation with our professional networks and within timelines approved by the California Latino Federation of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and The National Chicano/Latino Caucus.

Barbara Sánchez Smart

BARBARA SÁNCHEZ SMART, Coordinator
California Latino Federation
of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils

Geraldine Zapata

GERALDINE ZAPATA, Coordinator
National Chicano/Latino Caucus

Dated this 10th day of October , 1979.